(b) whether the farmers are using these fertilizers in the same quantities as in case of the chemical fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d).if not, the steps taken by Government to create awareness among the farmers for using these fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURJA): (a) The Government provided financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizer units under "National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers" during 9th Plan, where Rs. 20.00 lakh per unit were provided.

The Government has taken up a new scheme "National project on Organic Farming" from October, 2004, under this scheme financial assistance is being provided for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units @25% of the project cost up to a maximum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per unit.

As present, there are 151 bio-fertilizer production units in the country with installed capacity of about 18,200 MT per annum. The bio-fertilizer production was 9,064.79 MT, 9,753.98 MT and 10,594.90 MT during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(b) to (d) Bio-fertilizers are used as a cost effective supplementary source of plant nutrients and applied in a smaller dose than the chemical fertilizers.

In order to create awareness among the farmers, the Government is providing assistance under the "National Project on Organic Farming" for training of farmers, organization of field demonstrations on organic inputs including bio-fertilizers, organization of seminars, workshops and publicity through print and electronic media.

Use of organic manures

2. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made to increase use of organic manures;

(b) whether Government propose to give subsidy on organic manures;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the utilization of organic manures in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The following efforts are being made to increase the use of organic manures:—

(i) The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management which includes soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjuction with organic manure and bio-fertilizers.

(ii) Financial assistance for setting up of mechanized compost plants for conversion of bio-degradable city waste into compost is being provided under the scheme "Balanced & Integrated use of Fertilizers", now subsumed under the Macro-Management of Agriculture Scheme.

(iii) The Government provided financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizer units under "National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers" during IXth Plan, where Rs. 20.00 lakh per unit were provided.

(iv) The Government has taken up a new scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" from October, 2004. Under this scheme subsidy for setting up of organic input production units @25% of the project cost up to maximum of Rs. 40.00 lakh for fruit and vegetable waste compost units, Rs. 20.00 lakh for bio-fertilizer production units and Rs. 1.50 lakh for vermi-culture hatcheries per unit is being provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC).

(b) to (d) The Government is providing capital investment subsidy for setting up of organic production units for city waste compost, fruit & vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer and vermi-culture hatcheries.

(e) The Andhra Pradesh Government has given financial assistance for setting up of 300 vermi-compost units during 2003-04 and 1800 units during 2004-05. The production and use of vermi-compost during these

two years is 1050 and 7350 tonnes respectively. The State Government has also distributed 24066 and 30859 quintals of subsidized green manure seeds during these years.

Training programmes for small and marginal farmers

3. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the training programmes or schemes for small and marginal farmers;

(b) the number of small and marginal farmers imparted with training under the above programmes or schemes in various States during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan before Government to upgrade the existing training programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Agriculture marketing, grading and standardisation facilities in A.P.

4. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of adequate post-harvest management and marketing facilities had resulted in a glut in the market leading to distress sales and hardships to farmers;

(b) whether a scheme is being introduced in some districts of Andhra Pradesh for the development and strengthening of agriculture marketing, grading and standardisation facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the NABARD had financed for this purpose;